4.vi.1996, were found flying in sunshine in my untidy garden by Wanstead Flats, which was graced by a small batch of mint in one corner. An initial female was seen in the vicinity of the aforementioned plants on 5.vi.1996, flying at 12.30 hours, depositing a single ovum on the underside of a mint leaf near the mid-rib. Other examples were seen on 9.vi.1996, 15.vi.1996 and 20.iv.1996, generally flying in the sunshine around midday. Larvae of various stadia were first noted on mint, 20.vi.1996. Larvae were seen to be relatively abundant on 14.vii.1996, always on the same few mint plants, feeding in close proximity to each other, spinning webs on the terminal shoots.

A single example of *P. aurata* was also seen in nearby West Ham Park on 15.v.1996, flying in close proximity to the mints which formed part of the herb garden. No larvae were seen here.

Larvae were fully-grown on 19.vii.1996, the last being noted on 27.vii.1996, and imagines were seen flying until 18.viii.1996, their numbers being added to by those specimens released into the garden from 27.vii.1996.

The diurnal nature of the insect, and its propensity to fly in bright sunshine, was no doubt encouraged by the favourable weather conditions of June and July (see Table).

month	deviation 30 - year norms °C, 1951-1980	sunshine % deviation, 30-year norms
June 1996	+0.8°C	119%
July 1996	+0.8°C	112%

– G.E. King, cl. Luis López Allúe, 2-7°A, 50005 Zaragoza, Spain.

Fletcher's Pug versus Pauper Pug

I fear that Bernard Skinner had his tongue firmly in his cheek when he wrote on this matter (*Ent. Rec.* **108**: 284-285); he knows better than most that Heslop's use of the name Pauper Pug for *egenaria* related absolutely to last century mis-identifications of similar species and that such a name had no place in the British literature. Moths of *Eupithecia egenaria* H.-S. were recognised for the first time in Britain from wild populations in 1962, and the significance of the two vernacular names was not lost on Robin Mere (1962, *Ent. Gaz.* **13**: 155), and I re-stated this position (1981, *Larvae Brit. Lep. not figd. by Buckler*: 34) and summarised it again in the recent Newsletter no. 49 of the Norfolk Moth Survey Group (which three sources I recommend to interested readers).

We had all been seduced since 1984 by the alliterative ease with which Pauper Pug popped from the tongue; and the fact that successive authors

since that time have followed that unsubstantiated name cannot in any way justify its validity. Use of Fletcher's name deliberately honours the name of D.S. Fletcher whose national and international work on the Geometridae spanned many years, and whose name was chosen to commemorate that recognition in the name of a moth newly added to the British fauna. And we might remember that its use perpetuates the memory also of Robin Mere, one of a distinguished band of Lepidopterists of the post-war years and to whom we also pay tribute.

There is no case for a populist vote on the matter because it is not just a question of like or preference, as it might be for the species that Bernard Skinner lists and to which could be added legions more; for in the case of *egenaria* the use of the name of Fletcher's Pug distinguishes between the clear genuine records of this century and the confused, unsubstantiated references of the last century.

We should not forget in all this that *egenaria* had actually been found in 1953 by John Fenn at Thetford but not recognised then as this species; so Mere's name of Fletcher's Pug still remained the earliest.

The usual clarity of mind of the author of *Colour Identification Guide to the Moths of the British Isles* will surely prevail in the choice of Fletcher's Pug in further revision of that book.– G.M. HAGGETT, Meadows End, Northacre, Caston, Norfolk NR17 1DG.

Is *Rhizophagus oblongocollis* Blatch & Horner (Col.: Rhizophagidae) basically a subterranean species?

As part of a survey of beetles living beneath the surface of the soil, an underground pitfall trap (Owen, 1995, *Ent. Rec.* **107**: 225-228) was set at the base of an old oak tree on Ashtead Common NNR in November 1995. Among the beetles trapped between March 1996 and July 1996 were 14 examples of *Rhizophagus oblongocollis*. The only other Ashtead record for this beetle known to me is for a single specimen which I found in April 1979 by sieving leaf-mould from the base of an old oak sited about 150 metres from where the trap was set.

In Britain, *R. oblongocollis* is known from only a few old parklands and is remarkable for its erratic appearances. For example, it was first taken (then new to science) in Sherwood Forest around 1892 (Blatch & Horner, 1892, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **28**: 303) but it has not been found there since; it was found in Richmond Park in 1896 (Peacock, 1997, *Hnbk. Id. br. Ins.* V pt 5a) but, similarly, it has not been seen there again in spite of the entomological interest which has been taken in the park over the years including an intensive survey carried out recently (Hammond & Owen, *in press*); it has been taken in Epping Forest (Forster, 1954, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **91**: 6) but only once. Only at Windsor has the beetle been recorded on a number of